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Jocelyn G. Boyd
Esquire, Chief Clerk and Administrator;

October 26, 2018

David Wright, Hearing Officer;

Cromer H. Randall, Commission Chair;

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: PSC's Reservation of seats in the audience for Utility Personnel

Dear Ms. Boyd, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Randall:

As the Chair of an organization of approximately 900 members in 7 counties in the Midlands of South Carolina, I am compelled to make a request on behalf of justice, egalitarianism, and access. As a disclaimer this request is not at the behest of our Group but at its expectation that we speak to ensure their interests are expressed. The phone calls I have received have been those of anger and disgust. Older people and those on fixed incomes without technological capacity are aghast that they are expected to rely upon digital streaming of the proceedings.

After learning of the reservations of almost 20% of seats in the audience for Dominion and SCE&G at the upcoming hearings beginning on Nov. 6, I wondered about the reasoning. Even when SCE&G began its original docket to approve SEC&G's project, building of the 2 nuclear plants in Jenkinsville, there were few to no reservations made in the audience section of the hearing room. For 2 weeks witnesses, onlookers from other utilities, and the public made their way in and sat without an audience seating chart. As memory serves, the PSC has operated in this fair, egalitarian fashion and should continue this excellent precedent. This is how our General Assembly operates its hearings, and as a part of State government, the PSC ought to follow suit.

Although the idea of a seating chart to ensure support staff and witnesses for the parties evidences good planning, the undue high number of requested spaces by Dominion/SCE&G is unprecedented and unnecessary. The public has caught the scent of the utilities' stuffing the room with unnecessary staff so as to screen the public out. Examination of the chart reveals 25 seats for the public and 30 seats for Dominion/SCE&G. This is utility overkill. The PCS should require the parties justify the need for each requested seat using criteria for what is considered support staff.

I request the PSC do one of two things to avoid the public perception that the PSC's granting of reservations indicates preference and privilege to the utilities over ratepayers. The PSC should either find a location to accommodate all those who desire and deserve to attend in person, or the PSC should withdraw its blanket assent to as many reservations of audience seats as the utilities have asked.

This second choice can be accomplished by limiting that number to witnesses for the day, and by limiting personnel which have the same job. (One does not need 7 secretaries, 7 division heads, etc) to allow more seating for the public.

Another way to open seating to the public is to allow seats reserved for support staff be released to the public when the given support staff does not attend and actually occupy the reserved seats.

The PSC cannot afford to appear foolish in the public view by ensuring empty rows of seats while ratepayers stand along the walls and outside the hearing room in the halls.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenlaw
Pamela Greenlaw

West Columbia, SC 29040